

RECYCLING AND REFUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2012

Members: John Root, Chair; Meg Vickery, Susan Morrello, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, and Brenda Davies

School compost coaching at the Town's three elementary schools with Committee members serving as volunteer coached was again organized during the first two weeks of the school year.

The Committee considered a request by a resident that smaller trash bags be made available at the transfer station, since the 33 gallon bags currently sold to residents are too heavy for some people to lift independently when full. As bags must be ordered in large quantities and the DPW had just recently purchased \$8,000 worth of bags, the Committee recommended that individuals could ask for help in lifting their bags into the bin.

A display highlighting recycling issues was set up in the lobby at the Jones Library for the month of November in observance of America Recycles Day.

A plan for implementing a town-wide ban on the use of foam (expanded polystyrene) in restaurants was formulated by the Committee, including sending letters to restaurants, visiting establishments that are still using foam, publicly acknowledging foam-free restaurants, and bringing an initiative before Town Meeting. A Foam Free Subcommittee (Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Kennedy-Davies, and Sue Morrello) was formed in May, 2012 and tasked with developing community support. Letters were sent to 14 businesses inviting them to a June 6 forum and focus group on the issue, but none were able to attend and the forum was cancelled. The Subcommittee decided to approach businesses individually and initiate discussions with them on the feasibility of eliminating the use of foam products. The Amherst League of Women Voters (ALWV) was informed about the foam free campaign at a Brown Bag Lunch meeting on March 9 at the Jones Library (Meg Vickery presented). The ALWV identified several members (Martha Hanner, Cynthia Brubaker and Katy VanGeel) to join the Foam Free subcommittee as their representatives. The Hitchcock Center for the Environment also joined the effort, with Colleen Kelly as their representative.

Input was provided to the DPW about a Solid Waste Survey to be mailed to all residents soliciting their views on the collection of refuse and the desirability of the continued availability of the transfer station.

Recyclable textiles were collected at the Sustainability Festival, and 1.4 tons of clothing and other textiles were delivered to the Salvation Army in Hadley.

The Landfill Alternatives Subcommittee (Sue Morrello, John Root and Meg Vickery) created a draft recommendation to Guilford Mooring regarding the method of disposal of the Town's refuse and the future of the transfer station. The Subcommittee was subsequently disbanded so that input from the Committee as a whole could be included in the final draft of the report.

Sustainability Festival Sat., April 21, 2012 and Taste of Amherst – helped with composting.